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WASHINGTON – Appalled by the massive crackdown on Uighurs in the Muslim-majority Xinjiang province, a US government panel is pressing for sanctions against China.

"[We are] gravely concerned about the Chinese government's active repression of the peaceful cultural and religious traditions of ethnic Uighurs," **Leonard Leo, chairman of the Commission on Religious Freedom (USCIRF),** said on Wednesday, July 15.

He urged the US to lead investigations into the deadly unrest that claimed the lives of at least 194 people in Xinjiang.